



*News From*

# JACK DOYLE

## MONROE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

**For Immediate Release**

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### **DOYLE ANNOUNCES LANDFILL LEASE**

Monroe County Executive Jack Doyle today announced that the county is leasing day to day operations of the county's Mill Seat Landfill in Riga. Through a competitive process, Waste Management was selected to operate the facility and to construct the remaining phases of the landfill. Monroe County will retain oversight and monitoring authority over the entire Mill Seat site and operation.

Under Doyle's plan, Waste Management would assume over \$43 million in county debt on the facility while guaranteeing the county stable landfill rates for the next decade.

As part of the agreement to take over operation of the landfill, Waste Management will accept sludge from the county's Van Lare and Northwest Quadrant Wastewater Treatment plants.

This is a key component in the county's conversion of the treatment plants from incineration to a more environmentally friendly centrifuge based operation. That conversion will allow the county to eventually tear down the smokestacks at those facilities. In fact, the Van Lare facility's auxiliary smokestack has already been completely removed.

"This agreement is an innovative way to solve two problems at once," Doyle said. "We can get ourselves out of the financially risky solid waste business while at the same time we become better neighbors in Irondequoit and Greece."

Doyle pledged that every aspect of the Host Community Agreement with Riga would be upheld under the new arrangement. Monroe County would remain responsible for the county's recycling, household hazardous waste and recycling education programs. Additionally, the county would retain oversight for environmental monitoring, to ensure the landfill is being run in a safe and responsible manner.

Waste Management has vast international expertise in landfill management, particularly in regard to odor and methane gas control issues.

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"We will not abandon our responsibilities to the people of Riga, or to the people of the larger community," Doyle said. "At the same time, we're able to significantly reduce the county's indebtedness and our financial exposure for the next 15 years."

Under the agreement, Waste Management will be required to build the next "cell" of the landfill and construct a methane gas collection system throughout the existing landfill. The gas collected will likely be burned in a steam/electric generation plant.

The announced privatization agreement will also have a positive environmental impact in regard to the landfill. The agreement with Waste Management allows the county to fully implement its "closed loop" system between Van Lare and the Mill Seat Landfill. As a result, a new sewer line through Churchville will permit the transportation of leachate -- the runoff from inside the landfill -- to be piped directly to Van Lare, eliminating the need for costly trucking. In turn, sludge from Van Lare and the Northwest Quadrant will enhance the production of methane gas and speed the decomposition process at the landfill.

"From environmental benefit to reduced debt and greater economic development opportunities, this agreement with Waste Management holds vast potential for Monroe County's residents and taxpayers," said Doyle. "As our local tax dollars continue to be stressed by increases in Medicaid and other expenses outside of our control, innovative and forward thinking proposals like this privatization become crucial to our county's continued fiscal health."

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